Road from Ala to Kodukulanji.

224. *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any representation has been received by the Government or the Department for taking over under departmental maintenance the road from Ala to Kodukulanji road, 4th mile, 8th furlong ;

(*b*) the steps taken in the matter ; and

(*c*) whether this part of the road has been cut open by the public of the locality at their own cost ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The approval of the P. W. D. Advisory Committee has been obtained for the proposals and the acquisition of required lands on nominal compensation is being arranged for.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : With reference to the answer to part (c), may I know the distance of this part of the road that has been cut open ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : 2 miles.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know from Government the approximate cost of annual maintenance for this road ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : About Rs. 60, or Rs. 30 per mile.

Transport Buses.

225. *MR. G. VELU PILLAI : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the total number of Transport buses in the State at present; and

(*b*) the number of such buses run on charcoal gas ?

MR. E. G. SALTER : (*a*) 134

(*b*) 7

MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*) : May I know from the member the cost of converting a petrol driven bus into a bus driven by charcoal gas ?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Sir, the cost will depend upon the type of body of the bus. Ordinarily the cost may vary from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI : Out of 134 buses, may I know how many are running in the various routes ?

MR. E. G. SALTER : For the purpose of ease in maintenance and organisation, the buses are confined to only one route for the time being, that is the Trivandrum-Nagercoil route.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN : May I know from the member whether the buses driven by charcoal gas have proved a success ?

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